

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13955

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XA, EG
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK ON AFRICA

1. DURING MEETING WITH CHARGE MAY31 VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK ALLUDED TO PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS HE HAD HAD WITH U.S. OFFICIALS CONCERNING AMERICAN POLICY AND ACTIONS IN AFRICA. MUBARAK REPEATED HIS (AND PRESIDENT SADAT'S) CONSTANT THEME THAT THE U.S. MUST BE MORE ACTIVE IN COUNTERING SOVIET EFFORTS TO TAKE OVER THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. MOST OF WHAT HE SAID WAS FAMILIAR AND HAS BEEN REPORTED EARLIER, BUT HE STRUCK A CAUTIOUS NOTE OF OPTIMISM THAT PERHAPS AT LAST THE U.S. WAS BEGINNING TO WAKE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS A GREAT POWER. HE HAD BEEN HEARTENED BY RECENT STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT CARTER, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, SECRETARY VANCE AND NSC ADVISER BRZEZEINSKI, BUT HOPED THESE COMMENDABLE STATEMENTS AGAINST SOVIET, CUBAN AND OTHER MACHINATIONS IN AFRICA WOULD BE FOLLOWED UP BY CONCRETE ACTIONS. MUBARAK HAD SEEN PRESS SPECULATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONTINGENCY FORCE TO DEAL WITH EMERGENCIES IN AFRICA, AND HAD ALSO NOTED REUTERS ARTICLE TODAY QUOTING SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER THAT THE U.S. WOULD ATTEND MEETINGS IN PARIS NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS A JOINT WESTERN AND

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AFRICAN RESPONSE TO SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. MUBARAK SAID HE FOUND THIS PROPOSAL OF INTEREST AND WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT WE HAD IN MIND.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT NEXT WEEK'S PARIS MEETING THAT I CAN PASS TO MUBARAK.

REUTERS STORY SAYS IT IS NOT KNOWN WHICH AFRICAN COUNTRIES
WOULD ATTEND THIS MEETING; I INFER FROM MUBARAK'S QUESTIONS
THAT EGYPT MIGHT BE INTERESTED AT LEAST IN CONSIDERING
ATTENDANCE. MATTHEWS

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